



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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National Lakeshore

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Apostle Islands News Release

Release date: Immediate
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Date: March 9, 2015

Apostle Islands Ice Caves to Close Due to Deteriorating Ice Conditions

Apostle Islands National Lakeshore Superintendent Bob Krumenaker announced today that access to the ice caves will close for the season at 7:00 pm Monday evening, March 9. There are strong winds (up to gale force) predicted to begin this evening and very warm temperatures (40's and 50's) will continue for the next week or more. Ice is beginning to melt and the risk of ice formations falling raises safety concerns.

Although short, this has been a great ice caves season. Nearly 36,000 people visited the ice caves in nine days. This weekend alone, there were over 17,000 visitors.

Bayfield Chamber of Commerce and Visitor Bureau Executive Director David Eades said "This has been an amazing boon to the regional economy and although we would love this to continue for another month, the safety of the visitor always comes first." "Although the sea caves will not be accessible again until summer, there are still plenty of other winter activities to enjoy in the area." Krumenaker emphasized that the close coordination of federal, state, tribal, and local agencies, along with the business and tourism community in Bayfield and Ashland counties has been incredible. "The influx of visitors to their national park and the gateway communities benefits all of us, but accommodating those visitors and assuring their safety is no accident. This has truly been a team effort and the Apostle Islands National Lakeshore has as great a community partnership as any national park in the country."

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